

AN

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC :

IN A CASE OF CRUELTY,

INFLECTED ON A CHILD OF MR. JAQUITH,

AT THE

MAYHEW SCHOOL IN HAWKINS-ST.

BY WM. CLOUGH,

SHOWING THE METHOD AND MEANS MADE USE OF,

BY A FEW OF MR. CLOUGH'S PARTIZANS,

TO SUSTAIN HIM IN OFFICE,

AGAINST

THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE :

TOGETHER

WITH OTHER MATTER.



BOSTON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

1832.

Fellow Citizens,

THE late decision of the School Committee, and the injustice of that decision, has induced me to lay the following pages before you. I have two objects in view: First, in showing what cruel barbarity has been carried on in the Mayhew School for the last two years under Mr. Clough—and, secondly, to show the means, the manner, and method made use of by a few of Mr. Clough's partizans to sustain him in office, against the wishes of the people in that district. With these objects in view, I proceed with the *case of my Son*.

Previous to the Monitorial System going into operation, my son went to the Derne-street School, fifteen or eighteen months, under the instruction of Mr. Robinson and Mr. Whitney—during this time he was never struck a blow to leave a mark by these masters: he learnt more in the first three months, under these instructors, than he did under Mr. Clough in one year. When the boys system went into operation, he was transferred to the Mayhew School under Mr. Clough; here he had to pass through scenes of humiliation and degradation, such as being whipped for not fetching a new writing book, the day the old one was filled, and for not getting hard lessons, that no boy could get, and a number of minor offences: He stood it from month to month until the fatal day arrived that almost sealed his life—On that day he was reading and came to the word *characteristick* and could not pronounce it: the boy had an impediment in his speech (born so); he was sent up to Mr. Clough, and beat by this inhuman man until the blood started out of his back, through thick clothes. How the boy got

home, I could not conceive, he could hardly stand. On entering the house, he just made out to inform his mother, he believed the master would kill him. I arrived home soon after, and the first object that came to my view was, my wife attempting to administer some medicine to cool his lacerated back, the scene was distressing to my family—as soon as the boy could speak, so as to tell who did it, I started to find Mr. Clough, resolved to have revenge, or perish in the attempt. I was soon at the school house, and met a boy coming out of the yard, I inquired if Mr. Clough was in the school, the boy said he had been gone about ten minutes. I came back and attempted to eat my dinner, but my appetite was gone; on reflecting and thinking a few minutes, I made up my mind to take another course—that course I have pursued to the present time, in unmasking and exposing a cruel and vindictive master—cruelty to scholars unheard of in modern times, I know of no case (except a case of a Mr. Arnold in New-Hampshire) its equal.

The day of investigation arrived, that the School Committee was to examine my case with a number of others, it occupied several afternoons, but a number of parents would not come forward, they said they should get no satisfaction from the school committee, (too truly.) Mr. Clough brought a number of boys in his defence.—If I can understand language, they all to a boy gave their evidence more against Mr. Clough than in his favor. The monitor of the class acknowledged that my son could not sound two letters in that word. A second boy acknowledged before the board, that my son was a remarkable good boy—a third and fourth answered to the same purport. Now for the satisfaction of the public, I will give Mr. Clough's story. He says he told the boy to call the letters, and he repeatedly called them

wrong. It was proved that the boy was crying, and one of Mr. Clough's witnesses, said before the committee, he did not think that the boy could see his letters distinctly in his situation. Now, Mr. Clough, if you whipped the boy for not calling the letters right, what must you think of your own witness, who says the boy was crying and could not see,—we will pass by this for the next. *Now comes the rub*—Mr. Clough said the boy did at last pronounce that word. Now what does the monitor say (his own witness) he said in the presence of fifty people, that Mr. Jaquith's son had an impediment in his speech, and could not sound the letters *v* and *s* together in the word *characteristic*. Now if he could not sound those letters, how was he to pronounce the word, these two witnesses have contradicted each other, and in my opinion, Mr. Clough must appear contemptible in the eyes of every rational being, to abuse a boy as he did mine, and then to resort to falsehood, to get out of the scrape. If the monitor told the truth, Mr. Clough must have told a falsehood,—the boy never did pronounce that word, notwithstanding Mr. Clough's assertion to the contrary.

Is there a man in the community, that believes this boy would stand and be beat until blood started out of his back through stubbornness, when it was proved he was a remarkable good boy? Have I not detected Mr. Clough of a gross falsehood already, in a case of Mr. Frost's child? I conceive I have. Mr. Clough found himself in a critical situation, he must make one effort to extricate himself, at the expense of falsehood.

I was satisfied that another such beating would endanger the boy's life. I took him away, as many others have done, from that school. The public schools are intended for a public benefit, and a public blessing, but the Mayhew School has been made by Mr. Clough, a public

evil. And recently, four hundred citizens as respectable as any in the city, have petitioned to have this evil removed. About the time of this last act of the drama, on my son, you could hardly enter a street at the west part of the city, without finding more or less complaints against this man. Mothers weeping over their offspring's lacerated backs, praying in secret against this cruel man.

I will now examine some of the means taken to sustain Mr. Clough in his office. I am sorry to drag names out, but I am determined to state things as they have existed. Mr. *Daniel Parkman* said before the School Committee that he should regret to have Mr. Clough removed, very much indeed, for he considered that his mother's real estate had risen five per cent. in value since Mr. Clough came to that school. Whoever heard of this system of instruction, where cruelty is practiced to benefit those in affluence. This gentleman's whole mind appeared to me, to be absorbed in his mother's real estate. Now the writer of this, in common with a number of other parents, do protest in a most solemn manner against having our children's backs lacerated in the manner they have been, for the purpose of raising the value of real estate, to benefit the rich. Next comes Dr. Parkman, he made a strenuous effort to sustain Mr. Clough in soliciting names. I will mention what took place with a few that he called upon—He called at one place in a great hurry with a paper in his hand and says, Mr.——— I want you to put your name to this, the gentleman being busy—after a word or two he signed it, knowing him to be a respectable gentleman. When this gentleman came to know what the Dr.'s object was, and the purport of that paper, he goes to the Dr.'s house, and demands his name from that paper, and forbids the Doctor to make use of his name in any manner or shape

in this affair. The Dr. goes to another place, this gentleman's language was this: "Dr. Parkman you have come to the wrong place for names, for I do know, what my eyes have seen that Mr. Clough is not a suitable man to keep any school, but a disgrace to the city." He goes to another, and he observed that Mr. Clough was not fit to be an hostler in his stable. He says, if Mr. Clough should beat one of my horses as he did Mr. Jaquith's child, he would beat him so, that he should not be able to go out of his stable. Another refused to sign, unless the conditions were to remove him out of the city. These were the answers given to the Dr. by a few, or the purport of them. I would not have gone round myself and received the answers that were given to the Doctor, and the contempt shown to the object, for half the gold the Doctor is worth. Mr. Capen, also went round in the shade of the evening, with a paper in his hand to solicit names, to say they should regret to have himself and Mr. Clough removed. I shall make no comments on this, it speaks for itself—only that he got disappointed in some places. Do either of the Mr. Parkman's send any children to the *Mayhew School*?
 Ans. No.

I will now examine or refer to a piece in the Boston Patriot signed a Citizen (a fictitious name—assassin-like, when it is touching another man's character); this writer says, that two of the committee men said, that the skin on Mr. Jaquith's son's back was not broken. Now if those two men did say so, they said that which was not true, for they heard the testimony given in by a responsible man, that the blood was oozing out of his back, and the boy's shirt, when taken off that night, was spotted with blood. The only committee men that ever saw my son's back were Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Emerson.

Did these gentlemen calculate to impeach my witnesses, or did they intend to bias other members in the final decision by making such a statement. I have no apology to make to either of these gentlemen, they were partisans of Mr. Clough. When each of them had complaints made to them of Mr. Clough's cruelty from month to month,—what did these two gentlemen do to stop such cruelty. Mr. Armstrong told Mr. *Rupp*, in the case of his child, that he would stop it—that was all he did do. A number of cases occurred after—I will mention a few other statements connected with these two committee men. It was supposed by judicious persons, that Mr. Emerson would not consent to stand for a new election; it seems he did, and the gentleman received about ninety votes out of three or four hundred—so much for being associated with Mr. Clough. Mr. Armstrong was a candidate for the Legislature: the excitement in Ward 5, was so great against him, that he received, if I mistake not, a little over fifty votes, where he once obtained three or four hundred. I come now to another person, (Mr. Clough was put to his trumps and found himself tottering, he had men to work towards the north part of the city, endeavoring to procure names)—I mean Mr. Thomas Barnes (who sends no children to this school), a gentleman that meddles with nobody's business, to show the influence of this man at that section of the city. He acknowledged to me before witnesses, that he did go round and procured three whole names for Mr. *Clough*. A few other statements, and I will close the subject of cruelty. A Mr. *Shallack* had a son beat at this school, with a raw cow hide, and cut up from his shoulders to his legs. A Mr. *Tothhill* had a son cut up with a raw cow hide, from his neck to his ancles, in the same school; and what astonishes every one, I have conversed with,

is the trifling offences committed by said boys.—Boys seven years old have been whipped so, they could not lay on their backs, and now there are a few, (but a small part of the community at large) that want to sustain Mr. Clough, in all his unjust and vindictive cruelty. Shame on you—a disgrace to the age we live in, and a stain on our once famed city, for our free schools.

I will now prove to any impartial man, Mr. Clough's vulgarity in nick-naming scholars. Mrs. Slater sent a son to this school, Mr. Clough nick-named him *Bashaw with two tails*, the boy became dissatisfied in being called so, and Mrs. Slater was obliged to take her son away.

Mr. Earl had a son that was called *Count Earl*, the boy was very much against going to school to be nick-named by the master; Mr. Earl had to take his son away. Mr. Burbeck had a son named, by this great instructor *Hammer-handle**—it worked upon the boy's feeling to such a degree, that he told his mother he did not want to go to School any more: his mother told him to go to school, and if the master called him Hammer-handle any more, not to answer him: the boy went, and in a day or two Mr. Clough called him out by the name of Hammer-handle, no answer was given; he called him again and again, no answer. Mr. Clough advanced towards him and said, why don't you answer me—That is not my name, Sir:—my mother told me if you called me *hammer-handle* again, not to answer you. If this is not a mean and dirty act, in nick-naming children, call it what you please. *Rhymes*, I will only mention one out of a number:—"Come up here you Henry Burr, and I will tickle your *fur*." This would set the boys a laughing, and then some of them would get a tremendous flogging. Such is a part of a short history of two years at the Mayhew School.

* Possibly some of these charges may be against Mr. Capen.

A case of Mrs. Binney's I will mention, for the benefit of the public; it bore hard upon two boys. Mrs. Binney's son was induced to stay at home on account of a humor settled in his legs, five or six weeks. When he went to school again, Mr. Clough asked him why he staid so long at home—the boy told him. He said, no such thing, away with you down to the bottom of the school, along with your old couzin Chandler, where you belong. This was intended as a disgrace to the boy; it seems by this that a Chandler boy was there, that Mr. Clough had whipped some time since. (I refer the reader to Mr. Chandler's piece from the *Boston Gazette*, at the latter end.) Mrs. Binney's case is a cruel one; she has had to contend with this man in a number of cases that I will not mention here. How she could bear up under such treatment, as she has received from Mr. Clough, I cannot conceive. No one but Mr. Clough would be guilty of putting a woman to such trouble, to keep her children at school, as he has done. The complaints against this instructor is universal every where, that he is known. If I mistake not, he was in Ward 12, and staid until the people were dissatisfied with him there. Was he not in one of the High Schools, where he had to leave, to prevent a better man from leaving?—And now a few want to cram him down the throats of the people in that district, against their wishes. The time is coming, when this man will meet with just retribution for his unjust cruelty to children—public opinion I mean. It is computed that well on to one hundred children have been driven or taken away from the Mayhew School, by Mr. Clough's severe conduct towards them.

In an examination a short time since, before a sub-committee; a committee man from Ward 6, Samuel A. Wells, Esq. attacked me, in a personal allusion to a piece

published in the Boston Gazette, about shaking the ballot boxes over head. Such allusions before a committee to hear testimony, is in a bad taste, Mr. Wells. I did not suppose you would go out of your course of duty to hit me; it smelt a little Cloughish; but I can assure you, if you will move into Ward 5, you will feel the effects of the ballot boxes on the first election. I presume if you had a child beat by Mr. Clough as bad as I have, you would be found on the other side of the house. Do you recollect what a man said before the general committee last fall, that a poor man could not get any justice before a School Committee? I wish to ask the community one question: Supposing the Hon. Mr. Otis, or my particular friend, S. A. Wells, Esq. had had a child beat by Mr. Clough, as bad as some parents have—would not Mr. Clough have been kicked out of school, without any investigation.

It is currently reported, that a member of the School Committee said, that the petition signed by near four hundred citizens, was an insult to that body,—and instead of laying it on the table, it ought to be thrown under it. If any member did say so—I am sorry for it; it only shows what this man would do, if he had the power in his own hands, he would string up four hundred petitioners for expressing their own opinions, in a legal way.

Mr. Clough selected a few boys, that he thought he could depend upon to be witnesses. One of the number was requested to ask his father—here are the words; “Pa, Mr. Clough wants me to go down to be a witness for him to-morrow.”—“Well, my son, if you can do Mr. Clough any good, go by all means.”—“Why Pa, if I tell the truth, I cannot do Mr. Clough any good.” The father replied, “Then don’t go.” These are facts that cannot be refuted.

I applied to Alderman Russell a few days after the investigation had closed, for his private notes, taken when the witnesses were examined. Mr. Russell observed that he put his Notes into his drawer, and a day or two after he went to look for them, but they were gone. I leave it to the public to judge how those Notes disappeared out of Mr. Russell's drawer. Let it be remembered that Alderman Russell voted against Mr. Clough's cruelty. Was it determined by a few of Mr. Clough's partizans that no record should be found hereafter, of this investigation. N. B. Perhaps it is not generally known that each Alderman have a private drawer in the Mayor and Alderman's room.

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Emerson respecting my son—he was the Chairman of the sub-committee of Mr. Clough's school.

Boston, Oct. 11, 1831.

Mr. Emerson,

Dear Sir,—I shall decline to meet the School committee to-morrow, as proposed by you. I have one or two reasons—first, if my son is no better to-morrow than he has been to day, he will not be able to attend. I am afraid he has taken cold to day. His back and shoulders are very stiff, and my folks at this moment are bathing him.

I wish to ask, if you have not had complaints enough already against the same person for his savage barbarity to children, and what does it avail.—Has this monster in human shape been removed? No. Has the school committee deigned to make any complaint to him in person? Mr. Armstrong yesterday, and yourself to day, had evidence by my son's back, of his savage cruelty. The indignation in this neighborhood, for his cruelty to my son

is great, and the time I think has arrived, to cry aloud for justice. There is a responsibility some where, that has been neglected; and if there is no law to protect scholars against his [Mr. Clough] brutality, I will appeal to the community at large for redress.

Respectfully yours,

MOSES JAQUITH.

Rev. Mr. Emerson.

Extract from a letter written by my son, one hundred and thirty miles from this city, to his oldest sister.

"I attend School every day—the boys all like the master; he don't beat the boys as Mr. Clough did."

The following Petition was recently sent in, to have Messrs. Clough and Capen removed, signed by near four hundred citizens.

To the School Committee of the City of Boston.

The undersigned inhabitants of the City of Boston, fully appreciating the vast importance of the system of *public education*, and feeling a deep interest in the public schools of the city, beg leave to represent that the public *Will*, and *sentiments* in relation to their instructions should be consulted, and have its proper weight and influence. It is all-important, that the Men chosen to preside over these Seminaries, should be men of talents, and of virtue.—That they should be humane, judicious, capable, and every way qualified, to fill these stations. And believing that the course heretofore pursued by the present Instructor, and his Assistant of the Mayhew School, are neither *humane* nor *judicious*, nor such as to entitle them to the respect of a large number of the inhabitants; and exercising the right to remonstrate, we

do PROTEST against their being continued longer in office, and pray they may be removed accordingly.

Copy from the Record of the School Committee.

Friday, November 18.—The Board proceeded upon the consideration of the subject of the accusations against Messrs. Clough and Capen, master and sub-master of the Mayhew School. The following motion was made by Mr. Williams.

“Resolved, As the sense of this Board, that, under existing circumstances, the public interests require the removal of the master and of the assistant or sub-master of the Mayhew School from their respective stations, and that they be notified forthwith of the passage of this resolve.”

Rev. Mr. Gannett moved the following amendment: to strike out all the words after “Resolved,” and in lieu thereof to insert the following, viz.

“That after a long and patient examination of the grounds of complaint submitted by the memorialists and others against Mr. Clough, this committee do not find sufficient reason to dismiss him from office.

“At the same time they think proper to express to him through the Chairman, that he has, in their opinion, exceeded the bounds of the judicious exercise of authority intended to be conferred by article 6, chap. 1, sec. 2.”

A division of the question being required, also the yeas and nays, the question was taken upon the adoption of the first paragraph of the proposed amendment, and it was decided in the affirmative.

Yeas—Messrs. Otis, Armstrong, M’Cleary, Bent, Binney, Harris, Streeter, Shipley, Emerson, Wells, Stevenson, Gannett, and Hales.—13.

Nays—Messrs. Oliver, Russell, Little, Williams, and Hall.—5.

Alderman Oliver made the following motion, which was read and ordered to be laid on the table:

“Ordered, That the practice of corporal punishment be hereafter dispensed with, and that all regulations of the school committee now in force inconsistent with this order be and the same hereby are repealed.”

Adjourned to Wednesday next, 3, P. M.

In the committee, yesterday, the Order proposed by Alderman Oliver was submitted to a committee.

Of the thirteen that voted to retain Mr. Clough, some have been turned out of office by the people, and others have resigned.

The following is from the Boston Gazette of January, 1832. Although the writer has not designated the School. I have ascertained it is against Messrs. Clough and Capen of the Mayhew School, and the author is a man of responsible standing in the community.—He has since taken his child away from that School.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

One of the first and most important subjects to which the attention of our new City Government will be called, is that of our Public Schools. The universal discontent and dissatisfaction of the citizens, show that the subject demands immediate attention. They want at least two more competent teachers in each of the Grammar schools—our boy teaching and moral government, amount to nothing, and worse than nothing. Boys are incompetent to this task—they may hear a lesson recited under the supervision of a master, but they are unfit to determine when a scholar is fitted for his standing. In the first place they have a vast deal of dignity to support—the least disrespect to them, is punished by trapping the scholar, impeding his progress, mortifying him, and

keeping him back, and breaking down his courage. A scholar is not permitted to recite, in some of the schools, according to his book—but in a particular mode, which these boys direct from day to day; and as these boy teachers vary almost every day, what is pronounced right to-day, is wrong to-morrow, and the reverse next day; so that a scholar who could recite a book through at one lesson, has been kept over a year in this mode, learning and unlearning from day to day. The saving in the amount of money is very little, in hiring boys instead of men; and is much more extravagant, when the amount of instruction given is compared.

The writer can state one instance of the amount and value of instruction in one of these schools. A boy had been through Blaisdell's questions on the maps, through the grammar, and through seven sections of Coldburn's arithmetic, previous to entering this school: he has been there kept, drumming upon Blaisdell's questions, about fourteen months, and is not yet through; has been kept in Coldburn's arithmetic, and has not been allowed to go beyond the third section—and has not been allowed to study grammar at all. In about three months of that time, at home, in studying evenings, he has gone through the Geography more than ten times; has gone through thirteen sections of Coldburn's arithmetic; has gone through his grammar, and through Frost's exercises in parsing; has read Shakspeare, Scott's Napoleon, a history of England, a history of America, and several other books; so that the teachers, in lieu of trying to learn him any thing, must have only tried to see how much they could prevent his learning. I believe this is a fair sample of the amount of instruction given in this school. The public will judge, whether money, so laid out, is expended for the benefit of the public.

It has been said that our schools have heretofore been too expensive. But I think, in point of economy, too much money cannot be expended in giving instruction to all, provided, the amount is so expended as to give the most instruction that the sum is capable of affording.—What is thus expended, is saved in poor rates, in jails, in expenses of criminal prosecutions, in state prison ex-

penses, and more than treble, in the general prosperity, and the value of educated, over uneducated labor.

HANCOCK.

FROM THE BOSTON COURIER OF DEC. 1831.

I had been simple enough in times past to suppose that our public schools were good places for children, and having no desire to see mine fare differently from those of my honest neighbors, determined to avail myself of such instruction as they afforded. I sent the only child I had who was old enough to go. A daughter. For a year or more she run the gauntlet with tolerable good luck. She was afterwards, however, brow-beaten and discouraged,—and finally, whipped. A conversation with the teacher convinced me that he had punished her without any provocation. This child had been under the care of other teachers, who had all remarked that her disposition was mild and amiable, and she had never before received a blow at home or abroad. I thought the case a cruel one, not on account of the bodily injury inflicted, but on account of the bad effect that a brutal and unprovoked attack upon the person of an innocent child must necessarily produce upon her mind. A recent decision of the fathers of the town, shows what is to be expected from that quarter upon such an occasion; the law affords no relief; a parent has no remedy, therefore, but to right himself upon the spot, in obedience to those promptings of nature which teach every one to defend his own offspring. And who shall say that this is not a father's duty? If violence and brute force must prevail, it is a poor rule that won't work both ways.

Upon inquiry, I found that many other children had fared worse than mine. The parents were grieved and exasperated, but could not exert influence enough to obtain a suitable attention to their case. Complaints too, I discovered, were equally loud from other schools.

I was eventually compelled, as hundreds have been before, to take the child away, and turn her into the street, or send her at considerable expense to a private school. Whilst prosecuting my inquiry, one instance of school discipline came to my knowledge, from and undoubted

source, that I will mention for the amusement of the School Committee.

A poor man called by mistake upon a superintendent of the primary schools, with a complaint that his son had been cruelly flogged by a schoolmaster. The child was with him, and showed his hand that had been beaten until it was black and swollen with the bruises, and the swelling extended to the elbow and above it to such a degree that the hand and arm could neither be straitened nor used. The father, who is not a bank director, nor an esquire, nor even an honorable, but an untitled individual who drags a hand-cart for a living, was requested to go with his complaint to one of the school committee who lived near at hand. When the name was mentioned, "No," said the father, "a poor man will get no justice there, I will go and take my satisfaction out of the master's hide." He was with much difficulty restrained from seeking this only practicable mode of redress, but at length concluded, as a thousand others have done, (my poor self among the rest) to pocket the abuse and take his boy home. What was the result? The man was unable to put his child to any other school, and he is now to be found about the streets and wharves, engaged in the thriving employments of licking molasses and catching smelts.

If this were a solitary case, it would be bad enough, but others of a more aggravated nature are very common.

Thus it is, that many citizens who contribute to the public fund are unable to derive any benefit from it, without exposing their children to be more cruelly beaten than truck horses. And here it is well worthy of remark that the same city authorities who arrest and fine individuals for cruelly whipping dumb animals, afford no redress in cases where the "human form divine," in the shape of a poor man's child is maimed and lacerated by a schoolmaster. Yet we never hear of a man's beating his horse to the injury of any limb, or to disable him from work, whilst instances are not wanting where the schoolboy is sent home crippled for days and weeks, by the scourging of these chosen guardians of his tender years.

There are few parents who can conveniently afford to send their children to a private school, who are now willing to put them where they are sure of nothing but a whipping, or if any thing useful is acquired, to be obtained only under the influence of bodily fear; to say nothing of the effect that these daily exhibitions of impatience, severity, and want of self-command must have upon the child's disposition through life.

Let every man who has a child to send to school, or ever expects to have one, ask himself this question—*"If it is not my business to see into this matter, whose business is it?"*

GRUMBLER.

In an examination of complaints before the School Board against Mr. Clough, the Chairman (the Hon. Mr. Otis) observed, if there was any other man had charges to make, to come forward. I having a list of names, to prevent any confusion in the business—Spoke in a low voice. Mr. Such-a-one, (name forgot. This privilege was granted to Mr. Clough without any objection.) The chairman, Mr. Otis, observed to me, "Mr. Jaquith, you should not come here to prevent a man from getting his bread." (This remark caused some sharp shooting between an Alderman and the Chairman): The meaning I conceived to be this: if Mr. Clough was turned out of office, he had no other means of support. (Mr. Clough would take it an insult, if any one should rate him under five thousand.) Conceiving such remarks from a gentleman of Mr. Otis' standing, as unbecoming and unjust, induced me to write the following letter to the School Committee, which was delivered to Mr. Otis, with my own hand.

*To the General Board of the School Committee,
City of Boston.*

GENTLEMEN,—In the examination of witnesses on Friday last before your board, against Messrs. Clough and Capen. It was observed by the Chairman, that "I

should not come there to prevent a person from getting his bread;" or words to that effect. Now gentlemen, it is a notorious fact that I came there, with some of my fellow citizens, to substantiate serious charges against Messrs. Clough and Capen, as set forth in our Memorial.

Presuming that I should have that respect shown me, which every good citizen is entitled to; endeavoring myself to show that respect to your board that every good citizen ought to. That remark from the Chairman wounded my feelings in some degree. In my humble opinion it was prejudging the case before your board, as was observed by many gentlemen after the meeting had adjourned. If your board should think proper to take any notice of this communication, I should be willing at any time to receive it from your board, as you may think just.

In my opinion that remark from the Chairman would not have been made against a citizen of wealth and high standing; presuming that a poor man is entitled to as much respect as a rich man, if he conducts himself as a good citizen.

Respectfully,

MOSES JAQUITH.

Boston, Nov. 15, 1831.

The public will observe by the above letter, that I had a powerful antagonist against me, before the decision was terminated, and I was well aware, that if I sent this letter to the board before the decision, it would not help my cause, but rather be against me—I determined to act in a straight forward course, and knowing my cause to be just, I gave the letter to Mr. Otis as an injured man, trusting to his magnanimity for the final decision.

I will now mention one fact concerning this gentleman, in the case of Mr. Chandler's child. Mr. Otis told him and the gentlemen that went with him, that such cruelty to a child was a shame, and that something should be done to stop it. Now please to observe—after a number of more cases had occurred at the same school, and more aggravating in barbarity and cruelty, this same man voted to keep this great instructor in office. Is this consistency, to tell a man one day that

he would stop such cruelty, and say it was a shame to see a child so cruelly cut up, and then vote to retain this same man in office, that inflicted the cruelty, after he had repeated the same offences over again and again. But such are the facts. (The reader is referred to Mr. Chandler's piece, to show what Mr. Otis then said respecting his child.)

What is the reason that some of our rich men's sons are not found coming home from school with blood trickling out of their backs, as was the case of mine? Is it because they are any better in school, than the poor man's child? Did not every one of Mr. Clough's witnesses acknowledge before the school board, that my son was a good boy—and the monitor of the class acknowledged before the whole board and spectators, that my son could not sound *r* and *s* together, in that word, that he was so cruelly beat for not pronouncing?

FROM THE BOSTON GAZETTE OF NOV. 3.

To the Editors of the Boston Gazette,

Gentlemen—I was informed yesterday that Mr. Wm. Clough, master of the public school in Hawkins-street, had committed *another* outrage on one of his young scholars, and that the case of *my child* was named in the communication. I am glad that it is not entirely forgotten.—In October, 1830, he was most shamefully abused; two gentlemen, who saw his back, and who had witnessed many persons whipped in *State-street* many years ago, said his back looked more like those, than any thing they could compare it to. And all for a trifling cause. My child was taken to the Mayor's room, his back shown to his honor and others—the Mayor said it was shameful, and ought not to be suffered—something should be done. Now what has been done? *Nothing*. Being a poor laboring man, I could do nothing, and had to put up with it.—But it seems now that a father more able than myself, whose child has been abused, has come before the public, and exposed the offender; and I hope he will be *reformed*.

JONATHAN CHANDLER.

N. B.—Names of the gentlemen referred to, who went with me to the Mayor's rooms, can be had by calling on me in Marshall street.

A respectable person living near this School has said; that the cries and lamentations of children have been so distressing, that they have had to shut down their windows, and retire to another part of the house.

If any of my friends should regret the course I have taken, I would ask them one question—Consider the feelings of a parent, on arriving home at noonday, and seeing one of his children lacerated, and exhausted by beating. A boy beloved by his school-mates for his goodness of disposition. My son cried for mercy, Mr. Clough heard him not—bent upon cruelty, the strokes were renewed with redoubled vigor—blood at last started from his back. This satiated his propensity for cruelty—for this unjust and cruel act, the indignation of a parent will follow him wherever he goes. I am sorry to say, that Ministers of the Gospel, were found on the side of cruelty with this man. Is this the religion that our Saviour inculcated to his disciples to practice? Do you wish to bring back that doctrine of discipline, that was practised in the dark ages of Christianity, when Europe was benighted with cruelty and barbarity?

Corporal punishment is discountenanced now by the wisest and best of men of the present age, and is found unnecessary. Better modes have been discovered to correct both boys and men—and what in the army, navy, the merchant service, and in the Penitentiaries, is found to be improper as punishment, we hope will be *reformed* out of our Schools—in a word, is there an individual in this Metropolis that will ever trouble a School Committee again.

ADVICE TO MR. CLOUGH.

Sir,—If you have not lost what little humanity you ever did possess: I beg of you to stop, and pause a few moments: consider what cruelty you have inflicted on little children, and all for little or no offence. Children have been cut up in your School from their necks to their ancles, as was proved to the School Committee—wounds that will never heal in their remembrance. Consider Mr. Clough, the many angry feelings harbored by little children against you, although a small still voice, it will be heard. Many—many a parent's heart has bled for

your unjust cruelty. Think of the children that have been driven from your School, some to be found on the wharves, who would otherwise have been in the school.

I have been told that no child has been struck in your school to leave a mark, since the investigation—If so, I rejoice that good has come out of it. But is it not through fear, that has curbed that passion, that once knew no bounds? Is there a man in the community that believes the scholars any better now, than six months ago?

I beg of you once more to subdue and controul that evil and cruel disposition of yours; for I candidly believe, if you should injure another child, as you did mine, all the School Committees in Boston could not save you.

MOSES JAQUITH.

P. S.—Mr. Burbeck had a son abused a few days since for a trifling cause—the father had an interview with the gentleman in the school house yard. It is said that this humane instructor's countenance changed very quick to a deadly pale.

To the General School Committee of the City of Boston.

GENTLEMEN,

I would propose for your consideration the propriety of abolishing the *right* that Mr. Clough has assumed in nicknaming scholars in his school, a right, that no other master ever practised to my knowledge. It is not only disgraceful, but mean and contemptable, to give a nickname to an innocent scholar, to gratify this instructor's great mind—no one but Mr. Clough's stamp, would be guilty of such conduct. Scholars have been taken away from the *Mayhew* school on this account.

If your Honorable Board should think it inexpedient to abolish corporal punishment in the schools, I would solicit your serious attention to the evil that will result in a system of corporal punishment, intrusted to such hands as Wm. Clough—a man of ungovernable passions; a man that strikes little children twice and thrice, and then says he did not strike but once. Will your Honorable Board consider the great evil that is attended by nicknaming children in school—a new method of

instructing youth,—I should think this last evil might be dispensed with, without any great detriment to the general system of education. Your early attention to this subject, would meet the approbation of many citizens—
and Your Humble Servant,

MOSES JAQUITH.

Boston, March 24, 1832.

TO THE PUBLIC AGAIN.

I avail myself of this opportunity to the Public to say that this book is only a preface to the charges that can be brought forward and substantiated against Mr. Clough. Soon as time will allow, I intend to give a more interesting statement to the Public than the present one, with affidavits, &c.

In conversation with Mr. Mandall respecting the cruelty inflicted on one of his children, I have learnt the following. A more unjust and inhuman act is seldom heard of. This child by the knowledge and commands of the parents staid at home some days—when sent to school again, one of the masters asked him what he had played truant for. The boy told the master that he had not played truant, but that his parents wanted him at home. The master insisted he had, and the boy persisted that he had not. The master, without further inquiry to know the truth, put the boy on a form (more appropriate name, a rack of torture) and beat him most cruelly, when the boy was innocent of the crime. The father in relating this, was much affected, and observed that he would not beat a dog as his child was beaten. Another of Mr. Mandall's sons was nick-named by Mr. Clough, "*Bare Footed Ranger*." Fellow citizens, what do you think of the conduct of Mr. Clough? Is it such as to merit the support of any rational man. Time nor room will allow me to say more at present.

M. JAQUITH.